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PRESENTS

MARY OKELO
Senior Advisor to the President of
THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ON:

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AT: SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE, RM: 101
2170 Bishop Street

3:30 - 5:00

MAJOR FIGURE IN AFRICAN BANKING TO VISIT CANADA

With a capital base of \$20 billion, and representation in over fifty African countries, the African Development Bank is the major financial network promoting development in Africa. As such it can offer Canadian firms unique business opportunities.

Since 1987, Mary Okelo has served as Senior Advisor to the President of the ADB. A key player in the continent's commercial and economic development, she represents an important connection for Canadian companies wishing to participate in African development.



Mrs. Okelo brings over twenty years of experience in private sector banking to her job ---experience which guaranteed her access to all the bankers in Africa.

After an illustrious career at Barclays Bank of Kenya which included many firsts --- for instance, the first African woman to be a bank manager --- she left her position as Senior Manager of Commercial Banking to participate in Women's World Banking (WWB), an international financial institution which was established to facilitate access to credit for women and their families. In 1982, Barclays seconded her to WWB and she established the Kenya affiliate, Kenya Women Finance Trust with a guarantee scheme partly underwritten by Barclays.

"It was a worthwhile investment for Barclays" she comments. "And helping institutions extend credit to women is a cause close to my heart."

She has served as the Honourary Chair of Kenya Women Finance Trust for the past 5 years, but became WWB's regional representative for Africa and rapidly established additionnal affiliates --- in Ghana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Senegal, Uganda and Nigeria ---- before moving on to her current position at the African Development Bank.

Throughout her distinguished career she has maintained a high level of commitment to community service, and serves on the boards of many African and international organizations, including the Hunger Project and the Global Fund for Women.

When asked what she hopes to accomplish by her visit she points out that while Canada has made a substantial financial contribution to the African Development Bank, few Canadian companies have participated in Bank projects.

"There's a lot of good feeling for Canada in Africa", she says, "And yet, Canada is not maximizing its potential in African development. It would be gratifying to see Canadians share in the continent's resources."